

**Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World  
and  
St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church  
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*Holy Communion Service  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 9, 2025*

## PRELUDE

played by organist

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHOIR INTROIT

## OPENING HYMN

[Green Book] LBW # 242

*“Let the Whole Creation Cry”*

[Printed on Page 14]

## GREETING

P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit be upon us all.

C **And also with you.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

C **Merciful God, you offer your blessings and compassion upon the world. Forgive us when we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We are sorry when we ignore the needs of our neighbors; resist your call to oppose injustice; give in to scarcity and fear; or assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness and grace. Restore our hearts and heal your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

- P** God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In the cross and empty tomb of † Christ, we are forgiven and made free. In the power of the Holy Spirit and refreshed by the baptismal waters of mercy, let us live anew as beloved children of God.
- C** Amen.

### **Prayer of the Day**

- C** Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Expand our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us disciples and witnesses of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **WE HEAR GOD’S HOLY WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **Introduction**

*The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God’s glory. “Who will go for us?” God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn’t catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.*

### **The First Lesson is from Isaiah chapter 6 verses 1-8 [9-13]**

*Through a vision in the temple, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah is called by God to announce judgment against Israel. Aware of his sinfulness and shortcomings, Isaiah is initially hesitant. But when God calls, Isaiah responds, “Here am I; send me!”*

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they

covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” [<sup>9</sup> And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;  
keep looking, but do not understand.’

<sup>10</sup> Make the mind of this people dull,  
and stop their ears,  
and shut their eyes,  
so that they may not look with their eyes  
and listen with their ears  
and comprehend with their minds  
and turn and be healed.”

<sup>11</sup> Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said, “Until cities lie waste  
without inhabitant,  
and houses without people,  
and the land is utterly desolate;

<sup>12</sup> until the LORD sends everyone far away,  
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

<sup>13</sup> Even if a tenth part remain in it,  
it will be burned again,  
like a terebinth or an oak

whose stump remains standing  
when it is felled.”  
(The holy seed is its stump.)]

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 138**

*I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)*

<sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup> I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word above all  
things.

<sup>3</sup> When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup> All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

<sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways of the LORD,  
that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty from afar.

<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your  
right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup> You will make good your purpose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the  
works of your hands.

## **The Second Lesson is from 1 Corinthians verses 15 verses 1-11**

*Paul delivers in a nutshell the story of the gospel that was given to him. In the lineage of the Christian faith, we have received the good news of God's love from generations of believers before us, and we continue to tell this story to the world.*

<sup>1</sup> Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures <sup>4</sup> and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

The Word of the Lord.

**C    Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

*(Congregation stands and sings “Thy Word” before the Gospel.)*

### **The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 5 verses 1-11**

*Jesus’ teaching of God’s word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus’ teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus’ creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind to become apostles.*

<sup>1</sup> Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

**C Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

The Rev. Murray Finck

*“Yes, Lord, If You Say So”*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*“Here I Am, Lord”*

## THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\*the word “catholic” in the creed means “universal.” It is the original word used as this profession of faith was adopted by the early Christian Church.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**L ... God of grace,**

**C Hear our prayer.**

## OFFERTORY

*“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”*

## Offering Prayer

**P God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight, and you have blessed us with bounty. Receive these gifts from your gracious abundance, and help us to join with the choruses of creation to tell of your**



love. We thank you for this Holy Table as you offer us your greatest gift of sacrifice and grace.

**C    Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**LBW [Green Book] Page 71**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

**P** Receive this gift of Jesus, our Messiah. The table is ready and all are always welcome.

*Holy Communion Distribution (The Congregation is invited by the ushers to come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. If you are unable to come to the altar, Holy Communion will be brought to you in the pew. We believe Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice. Those who are baptized and share that belief are always welcome at this table. Please speak to the Pastor if you have any questions. The inside circle of glasses contains white non-alcoholic grape juice.)*

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**C** Merciful God, we thank you for Christ Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by his goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

#### **Blessing**

**P** May the God of love, life, and light, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with grace, shine light on your path, and multiply your joy, today and always.

**C    Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**[Green Book] LBW # 494**

*“Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult”*

## **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace. May the words of Jesus dwell in us richly.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

**played by organist**

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**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

**Organist and Choir Director:** Sharon Heck

**Flowers are given by:** *In Honor of Alma Zamzow's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on February 15. With Love from the Emil and Frida Zimmer Family Branch in Canada.*

*Also, from Elaine Lee in Honor of Alma Zamzow's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.*

## **THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY**

<b><i>Presider:</i></b>	The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus
<b><i>Organist:</i></b>	Sharon Heck
<b><i>Holy Communion Assistant:</i></b>	Carmen Leslie
<b><i>Acolyte</i></b>	Carmen Leslie
<b><i>Reader:</i></b>	Nancy Anderson
<b><i>Prayer Leader:</i></b>	Kay Pushman
<b><i>Financial Team:</i></b>	Susan Avila and Kay Pushman

## **THIS WEEK**

<b>TODAY:</b>	Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday:</b>	10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. “At the End of Life.” Gathering 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

### **Redeemer Finance: February Offering through February 2**

Budgeted Monthly Expense	\$8,250.00
Offering	<u>\$2,411.00</u>
<b>Needed for Budget</b>	<b>\$5,839.00</b>

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President:** Kay Pushman, **Vice President:** Wendy Alfageme,  
**Secretary:** Nancy Anderson, **Treasurer:** Doris Weinert  
**Members at Large:** Susan Avila, Carol Costello, Sandy Langdale,  
Carmen Leslie, Betty Lucero, Sylvia Makus, Linda Peters and  
Michael Vanvales

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Barry**, Jean, Kathy, **Wendy**, Beverly, Nancy, Evelyn, Shirlene, Carol, Mickey, Evelyn, Gloria, Christa, Alice, Barbara, **Cedric**, Lucy, Karen, Kelly, Raymond, Dick, Marilyn, Brian, Carl, Jessica, Carol, Rose, Sandra, Elaine, Barbara, Betty, **Nancy**, **Phyllis**, Sylvia, Flo, Eileen, **Erich**, Leslie, Linda, Ronnie, Kay, Violet, Linda, Ron, Collette, **Lisa**, Patty, Barbara, Joan, **Dee**, Susan, Kathy, **Juanita**, Clarence, Debbie, Joan, Doris, Linda, **Bruce**, Alma, Martha, Marianne, Robert, Laura, Jim, Loretta, Ray, Patty, Delrie, Bill, Betty, Lorna, M. Teresa, Joan, Mike, Frankie, Donna, Ernie, Eileen, Darleen, Sharon, Danuta, Lynne, Ethan, Kurt, Brinly, McCall, Kathy, Nayleen, Nicole, Donald, Maria, Andy, Owen, Tom, Anastasia, Claire, Fran, Chris, Kyle, Michele, Wes, Sam, Kolt, Brigid, Joanna, Dale, Karla, **Sands**, Gloria, Tom, Rosalia, Elaine, Rachel, Mike, **Jesus**, **Richard**, **Kelsey**, Ginny, Margaret, Steven, Dian, EK Song, **Vicky**, and **Donna**. Please contact the church to add people to the prayer list.

*Please pray for those affected by the wildfires, fire personnel, and first responders during these devastating wildfires.*

*Please pray for our Bishop David Nagler, (ELCA) and Bishop John Taylor (ECUSA), the victims of the Ukrainian/Russian, Israel/Hamas conflicts, the civil strife in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and victims and families of all violence and natural disasters.*

*Gracious God, none who trust in your Son can be separated from your love. Give to those who live alone peace and contentment in their solitude, hope and fulfillment in their love of you, and joy and companionship in their relations with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Announcements

- † Welcome to everyone this morning, and especially to our guests and visitors.
- † Please take a moment and fill out the attendance slip found in the rack in the pews. Please place it in the offertory plate. Visitors, especially, are invited to fill out a card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!
- † Everyone is invited downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for coffee, treats, and fellowship (we have tea, too!) You are encouraged to continue to wear your name tags at fellowship so we can greet one another by name. The basket will be available downstairs so your name tag can be collected and ready to wear next week.
- † The Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Fellowship Hall to continue the study of the Sermon on the Mount. Please come prepared by reading Matthew 5:27-6:15. Please bring your Bible and feel free to bring your lunch, friends and neighbors to this new study.
- † Please listen carefully to the names read during the Prayers of the People (bolded in the prayer list) and read over the Prayer List in the bulletin. Please let us know when we can remove them. The prayer list is meant for additional prayers when someone is going through a special need for more prayer. Examples: surgeries, cancer, heart concerns, falls, broken bones, hospital stays, accidents, hospice, and such immediate conditions in need of extra prayers.
- † If you wish to donate to the people affected by the wildfires, you may make a check to Lutheran Disaster Response and note the funds are for the L A Wildfires or donate cash in an envelope and put it in the collection plate. Please note on the envelope that it is for Lutheran Disaster Response. You may also donate online at: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>
- † Our next gathering to discuss, prepare, and record the information you may wish to leave “**At the End of Life.**” Will be on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- † **New Member Reception in Early March.** We are start the conversations and preparations for another New Member Reception for any who desire to join the official membership of the congregation. The form will be available on Sunday mornings. It is also attached to the

weekly Communiqué. **If you are interested, please fill out the form** and give it to Pastor Finck on Sunday morning or send it to the church address on the front of the bulletin. There is never any pressure for people to officially join in membership. We always welcome, include, and love our visitors, friends, associate members, and members.

- † Annual Reports are due in the office as soon as possible. It takes time to prepare and print the Annual Report.
- † Our Annual Meeting Part 2 will be Sunday, **March 2, 2025** after our regular Service. This is a date change for the meeting. Please note it in your calendar.
- † Cedric Elmer is in the Seal beach Rehabilitation Center recovering from foot surgery. He would love to receive phone calls at: (562) 374-3217.
- † Forms for the Memorial Cross Wall are in the Narthex if you wish to honor a friend or family member in this way.
- † Please let us know if you are having medical issues, so we can offer pastoral care and our prayers during your difficult times. Speak to a member of the Church Council or call the office number: (562) 598-8697.
- † The elevator is working. Please see Kay Pushman, Wendy Alfageme, or Sylvia Makus to use the elevator, even if you have used it before.
- † Call for the Leisure World On-Call Bus Service up to three days in advance if you are having issues with it in regard to getting to Church on Sundays. (562) 472-1367 is the dedicated line.
- † If you are having a little problem with hearing on Sundays, please remember that there are speakers in the ceiling light fixtures so sitting closer to one of those may help. We are looking into improving the sound system for the Church Sanctuary.
- † The NEW 2025 Flower Chart is available for sign-ups in the entryway. One bouquet is \$15.00. Both are \$30.00. Please include any dedication for your flower request when signing up or include a note beforehand if there is a dedication. If you take the flowers in the plastic holders, please return the holders. We try to reuse them and are currently out of them.
- † Printed copies of our current newsletter are available in the entry-way. It is online on our website at: [www.redeemersealbeach.com](http://www.redeemersealbeach.com). It is sent out via email, if we have your email address. If you are not receiving the newsletter by email, or the midweek communiqué from the pastor, please put your email address on the attendance sheet in the pew pocket and put it in the collection plate, so we can add you or correct the address we have.